

THE MEMORANDUM OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC FEDERATION

For the Amendment of some Damaging Features of the West Bengal Homœopathic System of Medicine Bill 1963 as adopted in the West Bengal Legislative Council.

The Emergency Committee of the West Bengal State Homœopathic Federation in its meeting on 19-8-63 hailed the West Bengal Homœopathic System of Medicine Bill 1963 as adopted in the current session of the Legislative Council, and published a memorandum pointing out some harmful defects in the Bill, appealing for their amendment in the Legislative Assembly. The basic points of the memorandum are as follows:—

(1) The clause 21(2) of the original Bill along with the Schedule has been amended in such a way as homœopaths intending to get registration on the basis of experience will have to submit to an examination, irrespective of whether they are practising for a minimum period of 3 years or a pretty long period of 30/60 years. Normally a large number of experienced homœopaths will feel disinclined to submit to such examination and will prefer to forgo Registration and thus the homœopathic society will remain in the same chaotic condition after the Homœopathic Act is in force, as it prevails today. The income of the Homœopathic Council will consequently remain restricted.

For these reasons, the West Bengal State Homœopathic federation as the representative of atleast 36 Homœopathic organisations of West Bengal, humbly requests that the condition of examination be totally deleted from this clause so that all the practising homœopaths of West Bengal can avail of the last chance of getting themselves registered and submit themselves to official and unofficial efforts for their control and improvement. If such an amendment proves impossible, there should be a clear declaration that these examinations will be held only on Homœopathic subjects and not on general medicine.

(2) The annual Renewal fee of Rs. 5/- as stipulated in the clause 25 of the Amended Bill:—Apart from the derogatory aspect of this clause, bringing Registration fee to the status of license fee, such annual payment will be totally impossible for many a homœopath serving the ailing people in villages and towns on honorary basis or on very poor remuneration. The number of Registered homœopaths will get progressively curtailed in this way too. So total deletion of this clause is prayed for.

(3) The statement made by the State Health Minister on the floor of the Legislative Council as plea for not allowing the Homœopaths equal status with the allopaths, purporting that Hygiene and Public Health, Preventive Medicine, Poisoning are beyond the jurisdiction of Homœopathy, has been refuted by referring to various authoritative homœopathic literature as well as by pointing out the fact that all these subjects are regularly taught in all Homœopathic Teaching Institutions. It has been asserted that these subjects fall definitely within the scope of all practising Homœopaths, so they should not be denied status on unfounded imputations.

(4) The Amendment of the State Health Minister adopted at the Legislative Council purporting that the Act will be brought into force in stages, has given rise to some apprehension. The West Bengal State Homœopathic Federation appeals that, there should be no delay in the enforcement of those clauses in the Act which are essential for the interest of the public or homœopathic society.
